643 Belorussian by nationality he showed no interest in the Belorussian national work, even though at the time it was very muffled and suppressed. Upon his appointment as president of the Supreme Soviet the general opinion was /57/ that he would, to some extent, take the place of the intelligent and sensitive Cherviakov. However Staken lasted no longer than three or four months as president, after which he was arrested. His fate is unknown. Then a certain Natalevich was appointed president. No one at all knew him; there were rumors that he had been a captain in the Red Army, but he certainly was never a member of the Supreme Soviet of the B. S. S. R.. Nothing was known of his past. He lasted until the war, and apparently even during the war was still considered president since he remained at the post afterwards. What has happened to him recently is matter for conjecture since now there is another president of the Supreme Soviet of the B. S. S. R.

645 After Cherviakov's suicide the next prominent victim of the Ezhovshchina was the president of the Sovnarkom of the B. S. S. R., Nikolai Goloded. He was not arrested when the secretary of the Party Central Committee announced to him that he was being recalled from his post. In his place another secretary was recommended, a certain Volkovich. Goloded was arrested either in Moscow or along the way. It became known subsequently that during the examination by the N. K. V. D. he threw himself from the fifth floor and killed himself. There are grounds for supposing that the N. K. V. D. purposely made his death look like suicide. We have already spoken about his career several times (cf. pages 43, 45, 51). He was president of the Sovnarkom of the B. S. S. R. for almost ten years, taking the place of Adamovich who was recalled from Belorussia and shot himself during the Ezhovshchina. Goloded had an excellent memory as well as great ability as a director and administrator. He had barely finished the first three classes of the workers' school of the Agricultural Academy. However his natural abilities made it possible for him to cope with his responsible Soviet post. On the job he was secretive and conceited, and was able to bring others under his influence. He was not on familiar terms with anyone, and was always reserved. In Moscow he was able and skillful at promoting the cause of the Belorussian economy. He was on good terms with Molotov, Mikoian, Voroshilov, and Ordzhonikidze. However, all this did not save him from death.

643 Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR:
a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR;
b) Gives interpretation of laws; issues decrees;
c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Belorussian SSR in operation;
d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);
e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of [645] the Belorussian SSR and likewise decisions and orders of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies if they do not conform to law;
f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR;
g) Grants the rights of citizenship of the Belorussian SSR;
h) Confers titles of honour of the Belorussian SSR and grants awards;
i) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Belorussian SSR;
j) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Belorussian SSR to foreign states;
k) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

643 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of
646 the Belorussian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

[646] 645 Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR appoints the Government of the Belorussian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Belorussian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 41 The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of the Ministries[1] of the Belorussian SSR and of other economic and cultural[2] institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and verifies the work of the authorized representatives of the all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Belorussian SSR, presents it to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for confirmation and adopts measures for its execution;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Belorussian SSR, presents it for confirmation to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and adopts measures for its execution;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

e) Directs and verifies the work of the Executive Committees of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies;

f) Sets up, whenever necessary, special Committees and Central Administrations under the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR for economic and cultural affairs;

g) Exercises guidance in the sphere of the relations of the Belorussian SSR with foreign states, on the basis of the general procedure established by the USSR governing the relations of Union Republics with foreign states;

h) Directs the organization of the military formations of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 44. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR has the right to annul decisions and orders of Executive Committees of regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies and likewise to suspend decisions and orders of regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR has the right to annul orders and instructions of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

1 [Errata: should read "Republican and Union Republican Ministries"---Analyst]

2 [Errata: "economic and cultural" should be deleted---Analyst]

645 Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and consists of:
The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR;
The Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR;
The Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Belorussian SSR;
The Ministers of the Belorussian SSR;
The Chief of the Arts Administration;
The Chairman of the Committee on Cultural and Educational Institutions.

Art. 46. The Ministers of the Belorussian SSR direct the branches of state administration which come within the jurisdiction of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 47. The Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries, issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR, of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR and of the orders and instructions of the Union-Republican Ministries of the USSR, and verify their execution.

Art. 48. The Ministries of the Belorussian SSR are either Union-Republican or Republican Ministries.

The following Ministries of the Belorussian SSR are Union-Republican Ministries of the Belorussian SSR:
The Ministry of Internal Affairs
The Ministry of State Control
The Ministry of State Security
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry of the Armed Forces
The Ministry of Cinematography
The Ministry of Light Industry
The Ministry of Forestry
The Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry
The Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry
The Ministry of Public Health
The Ministry of the Building Materials Industry
The Ministry of the Food Industry
The Ministry of State Farms
The Ministry of Agriculture
The Ministry of Trade
The Ministry of Finance
The Ministry of Justice.

The following Ministries of the Belorussian SSR are Republican Ministries:
The Ministry of Social Maintenance
The Ministry of the Housing Construction Industry
The Ministry of Motor Transport
The Ministry of Furniture and Carpentry Industries
The Ministry of the Municipal Economy
The Ministry of Local Industry
The Ministry of the Local Fuel Industry
The Ministry of Education.

Art. 49. Each Union-Republican Ministry of the Belorussian SSR directs the branch of state administration of the Belorussian SSR entrusted to it, with the exception of only a limited number of enterprises, according to a list confirmed

645 by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR and the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the USSR.

Art. 50. Each Republican Ministry of the Belorussian SSR directs the branch of state administration entrusted to it and is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 51. The Government of the Belorussian SSR or a Minister of the Belorussian SSR to whom a question of a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is addressed must give a verbal or written reply in the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR within a period not exceeding three days.

Chapter V. The Local Organs of State Power

631 Art. 52. The organs of state power in regions, districts, cities, settlements and villages are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 53. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of regions, districts, cities, districts in big cities, settlements and villages are elected by the working people of the respective regions, districts, cities, settlements and villages for a term of two years.

Art. 54. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of regions, districts, cities, settlements and villages direct cultural, political and economic affairs on their territory, draw up the local budgets, direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, assist in strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and ensure the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens.

Art. 55. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the powers vested in them by the laws of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 56. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of a region, district, city, settlement or village is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and members.

[633] Art. 57. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies in a small locality is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 58. The Executive Committee of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of a region, district, city, settlement or village exercises guidance in cultural, political and economic affairs within its territory on the basis of decisions taken by the corresponding Soviet of Working People's Deputies and superior state organs.

Art. 59. Sessions of regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than three times a year.

Sessions of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than four times a year.

Art. 60. Sessions of Soviets of Working People's Deputies of cities, districts in big cities, settlements and villages are convened by their respective executive organs not less than once a month.

633 Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies or directly to the corresponding Departments of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 74. The Departments of city Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Borisov, Brest, Vileika, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Lida, Mogilev, Mozyr, Molodechno, Orsha, Pinsk, Polotsk, Rechitsa and Slutsk are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these towns and their executive committees as well as to the corresponding department of the regional Soviet of Working People's Deputies directly.

Art. 74a. The Departments of the city Soviet of Working People's Deputies of Minsk are subordinate in their activities both to the City Soviet of Workers' Deputies of Minsk and its Executive Committee as well as to the corresponding Ministry of the Belorussian SSR directly.

631 Art. 75. On the expiration of the terms of office of the regional, district, city, settlement or village Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

652 646 Art. 76. The state budget of the Belorussian SSR is drawn up by the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR the state budget of the Belorussian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 77. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Belorussian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 78. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Belorussian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and published for general information.

652 631 Art. 79. The budgets of the regional, district, city, settlement and village Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 80. In the Belorussian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR, the Regional Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

[693] Art. 81. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 82. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Belorussian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Belorussian SSR.